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## IMPROVING THEORETICAL WORK IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS

Lenin and Stalin repeatedly emphasized the enormous significance of statistics in the socialist state. As early as 1918, in his historical work Ocherenyevye Zadachi: Sovetskoy Vlasti: (The Successive Problems of Soviet Rule), setting forth the basic principles of socialist organization of production and of the administration of management, Lenin emphasized the decisive significance of governmental accounting and control over production and allocation. In 1924, Stalin defined the role of statistics in a socialist society in the following manner: No construction work, no government work, "No planning work is thinkable without accurate accounting. And accounting is unthinkable without statistics. Accounting without statistics will not make a single step forward" (Works, Vol 6, p 214).

Soviet statistics are the most advanced statistics in the world. The greatest advantage of Soviet statistics lies in the fact that it is, above all, the statistics of a planning socialist government. The domination of public ownership of the means of production, the moral-political unity of the people, and government planning of the national economy have made possible the flowering of statistics in the USSR that is impossible in capitalist countries. Soviet statistics are based on the political economy of socialism, created by the labors of Stalin and Lenin and is the scientific generalization of the universal-historical experience of the building of socialism in the USSR.

These advantages of Soviet statistics find their expression both in its theoretical content and in the scope, character, and organization of statistical works.

Socialism has created such an organization of statistics as is entirely unthinkable under the capitalist conditions.

It is well known, for example, that the existence of commercial secrets under capitalism excludes the possibility of getting authentic data from enterprises. As a result of this, the initial material, on which bourgeois statistics are based, is erroneous. The bourgeois state does not strive toward the goal

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of making statistical facts accurate, since such facts would disclose the contradictions of capitalism and would appear as an incriminatory act against the exploiters and their government. "The interests of the bourgeoisie demands the embellishment of capitalism and the shading of the class gulf" (Lenin, Works, Vol XVI, p 605). Characterizing the governmental statistics of Czarist Russia, Lenin wrote that they were nothing more than a "police excuse." "The Russian bureaucracy," he wrote, "hinders the Russian people from learning the entire truth about its situation" (Works, Vol IX, p 77-78). Unlike bourgeois statistics, Soviet statistics serve the interests of the people.

Lenin indicated the significance of the battle for public accounting and control. In capitalist society knowledge of statistics was limited to narrow specialists. In the Soviet State statistics has become a genuinely public matter. Lenin set up the task popularizing statistics among the masses by every means possible.

Lenin's instruction has been carried out. The Soviet people attentively follow the indexes of the achievement of the production plan, of the growth of the productivity of labor, of the reduction in cost of production, etc. The struggle for truthful accounts, accurate calculations, and accurate methods of calculation of statistical indexes has become with us a matter vital to millions of people.

Thanks to the advantages of the socialist economy and of the Soviet governmental structure, Soviet statistics are capable of performing enormous statistical work in short periods of time. The daily totals of the work of the most important branches of industry and of transport in our vast country are totaled at the end of the next day. Quick inventories of equipment, raw, and other materials are summed up in the course of a few days.

Only in the Soviet Union is it possible in 1-2 weeks not only to obtain accounting data concerning the operation results of all branches of the economy, but also to verify it carefully by comparing departmental accounts with the communications from local statistical agencies.

Soviet statistics can organize the collection and processing of statistical facts according to a single program which is set in accordance with a system of indexes for the national economic plan. These facts permit, the making of a complete and timely statistical verification of the course of the national economic plans, of the plans of national economic supply and of the plans for grounding new techniques in the national economy. They also make it possible to establish the causes of deviation from the plans, to bring to light and to anticipate possible disproportions in the development of the various branches of the economy and to reveal additional reserves which guarantee the overfulfillment of the State plans.

The strength of Soviet statistics lies in the fact that it is based on the great teachings of Lenin and Stalin. Lenin's investigation of the paths of development of capitalism in Russia, in other countries of Europe and in the US, were based upon the critical use of an enormous quantity of statistical materials, such as, government statistics and Zemstvo statistics of Czarist Russia, inventories of western European countries, censuses of the US, etc. In the works and utterances of Lenin and Stalin on questions of the socialist structure, there are numerous and exhaustive indications regarding accounting and statistics under socialism and about their role and tasks in the Soviet state.

Lenin and Stalin pointed out the theoretical basis of socio-economic statistics as being Marxist political economy, and they constantly waged war against the estrangement of statistics from economic theory. "Statistics must

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illustrate, by thorough analysis, the established socio-economic relations and they must not become an end in themselves, as so often happens with us" (Lenin Works, Vol III, p 294). A politico-economic analysis determines the manner in which the questions under investigation are raised and determines the program of statistical works. The methods of treatment of statistical facts must conform to the socio-economic and class nature of the phenomena under study. "Socio-economic statistics," wrote Lenin, "is one of the most powerful weapons of social knowledge" (Collected Works, Vol XIX, p 368).

Examples of scientific statistical analysis are found in Stalin's works in which statistical data is widely employed relative to the character of the basic results of socialist construction on its various levels and also relative to the analysis of the development of capitalist economy in conformance with established law.

Statistics is a weapon of social knowledge. This is due to the fact that it operates not with chance facts, but with the totality of facts relative to a given phenomenon. In his unfinished work, Statistics and Sociology, Lenin wrote: "In the field of social phenomena there is no method more prevalent or more worthless than that of lifting out individual facts or the making of free choices of examples. To select examples, in general, isn't difficult; but neither does it have any significance, or at best a purely negative one, because the whole crux of the matter lies in historical concrete circumstances of the individual facts. Facts if taken in their entirety, in their interrelationship, are not only an obstinate, but also an absolutely conclusive matter. Minor facts, if taken out of the context of the whole, out of their interrelationship, if fragmentary and arbitrary, only amount to a kind of plaything or something of the sort... The conclusion to be drawn is clear: we must seek to establish a foundation of precise and indisputable facts from which we can start, and with which we could confront any of those general or approximate judgments which are so greatly abused in certain countries today. For this foundation to exist, it is necessary to take not individual facts, but the totality of facts relating to a question under study ... there must be no exception. Proceeding from these considerations, we decided to begin with statistics" (Collected Works, Vol XXX, 303-304.)

Stalin points out: "The work of statistics is such that individual branches of the whole represent unbroken links and if one link is weakened, the whole work risks being ruined" (15th Congress RCP(b), stenographic account, p 130).

Lenin and Stalin treated the question of grouping as the most important method of scientific statistics. Lenin demonstrated that only those groupings are scientific which proceed from laws established by Marxist political economy. "One and the same material," Lenin indicated, "gives diametrically opposed conclusions under different methods of grouping" (Works, Vol XVII, p 617). Methods of grouping, selection of criteria which permit dividing phenomena of one type from phenomena of other types, all these are determined not by subjective constructions of statistics, but by the nature of the examined economic phenomena.

Lenin and Stalin, refuting bourgeois assertions which tend to make of statistics a "science of averages", indicated the limits and conditions of a scientific application of the method of averages and criticized the method or formal uncorrected averages. Statistical research should be carried on in such a way as to isolate the new and emerging phenomena to which the future belongs, although they haven't yet become the property of the masses or even typical. "For the dialectical method the most important thing is not that which at a given moment seems to be lasting, but is already beginning to die off, but that which is emerging and developing, even if at the moment it does not appear to be lasting. The dialectical method considers as irresistible only that which is emerging and developing" (Stalin, Questions of Leninism, 11th Edition, p 537).

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Statistical work in the USSR is subject to the demands of government management and of the planned leadership of socialist national economy.

Lenin and Stalin severely criticized scholasticism in statistical work. "Statistics must be our practical aids and not scholasticism" (Lenin, Works, Vol XXVI, p 322). Formalistic assertions removed from a socio-economic analysis are called by Lenin and Stalin "a toying with numbers."

Enemies of the Party and of the Soviet people repeatedly sought to misinterpret statistical facts in the struggle against the Party and employed for this purpose the mistakes of the then Central Statistical Administration. Exposing the enemies of the Party and the people, Lenin and Stalin indicated the road to maximum perfection of Soviet statistics.

Stalin subjected to annihilating criticism the balance of the national economy as worked out by the Central Statistical Administration in 1926, characterizing it as a "toying with numbers." In due course, in literature devoted to the treatment of the balance of the national economy, there were anti-Marxist theories current which treated the "balance of the national economy" as a category of elemental economy and treated questions of balance on the basis of a hostile theory of balance which had been exposed and condemned by the Party. The Bolshevik Party smashed the anti-Lenin "theories" of reproduction. Stalin worked out a theory of socialist reproduction and set before the Marxist economists the task of working out a plan for the structural balance of the USSR national economy.

In Voznesenskiy's Military Economy of the USSR in the Period of the Patriotic War, it is shown that the balance of the national economy is the expression of an expanded socialist reproduction. The basic divisions of the balance of the national economy and its contents are also defined.

The development of the political economy of socialism demands a generalization of the enormous experience of socialist construction in the USSR. Therefore, the application of scientific methods of statistics, with the aid of which the economic development of Soviet society is analyzed, must play an important role in the scientific development of the political economy of socialism.

Bolshevik Party discipline in all its practical and theoretical aspects is the most important demand presented by the Party and the government to our statistical agencies and theoretical workers in the field of statistics. It is one of the most important areas of battle for the victory of Communism in our country. In addition, theoretical statistics is one of the most important areas of battle against reactionary bourgeois ideology. Statistical practice helps the Party and the government to decide tasks of economic and cultural construction.

Meanwhile, the theoretical development of statistics, at the present time, lags behind those demands which the practice of socialist construction presents to Soviet statistical science.

The condition of the theoretical front in the field of statistics bears witness to the fact that many scientific workers in the field of statistics, to this day, do not understand the tasks advanced by the practice of socialist construction. They turn away from the resolution of these tasks and move along the incorrect and dangerous paths of formalism and scholasticism. Among a certain section of the workers on the theoretical front, there is current a formalistic theory which regards statistics as the sum of abstract-mathematical conditions and methods.

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These conditions were reflected in a number of widely distributed textbooks, such as, A Course in the Theory of Statistics by Professor E. S. Yastrenskiy, Professor A. Ya. Boyarskiy, and others, the textbook by professor Nekrash, and several other textbooks. If in several of these works it is admitted that political economy is the basis of socio-economic statistics, this acknowledgement has simply a declarative value, while the economic problems are studied by a purely quantitative method removed from the laws of economic development as revealed by Marxist-Leninist political economy. These textbooks devote primary attention to the exposition of methods and formulas which have only subordinate significance. They cannot themselves reveal the conformity to law of the phenomena under investigation. Questions of economic statistics and investigations of economic phenomena are treated in these textbooks only as methods illustrating this or that condition of mathematical statistics.

There is no doubt that the expedient utilization of mathematics, including higher mathematics, in statistical science is completely lawful and necessary. However, mathematical methods and formulas in economic statistics can have only a subordinate, auxiliary significance. Attempts to treat mathematics as the basis of statistics on a level with and parallel to political economy is a manifestation of bourgeois influences in the field of statistics.

The estrangement of statistics from the Marxist-Leninist political economy finds its expression in the underestimation or in ignoring the method of groupings, the special principal significance of which Lenin and Stalin repeatedly pointed out. This inevitably issues from the mathematical conception because groupings are the result of economic analysis, and in formal mathematical schemes there is no place for such. In contrast with the straight-forward instruction of Stalin that "the method of average numbers, not corrected with data according to areas, is not a scientific method" (Questions of Leninism, 11th Edition, p 256), certain authors consider the method of averages the basis of statistics and pass silently over the fact that an average without grouping is a formal average without foundation and that the analysis of averages is impossible without scientific grouping. An example of this inadmissible ignorance of the Leninist method of grouping is Professor Nekrash's textbook in which the Leninist method of grouping is contrasted with mathematical methods of the construction of variant series.

Long ago, the antiscientific theory concerning the dying-out of statistics in a planned socialist economy was exposed and refuted. However, the substitution for economic analysis of formal mathematical schemes is in its essence no more than an attempt to liquidate economic statistics. For this very reason, the authors of a number of textbooks on statistics were not only unable to expose the false theory of the dying-out of statistics in socialism, but even presented a number of situations which in essence supported this theory.

The exposure and surmounting of formalistic "theories" and mistakes is necessary to the significant use of theoretical works in the field of statistics.

Attempts to treat social phenomena from the point of view of mathematical schemes inevitably leads to crude political mistakes. Thus, for example, in Professor Uralis' works on statistics of population, the question concerning the mortality rate is without connection with historical and social conditions.

In the mortality scale set up by these works, countries with different social structures and different social conditions are mixed together. Professor Uralis appears to be a captive of bourgeois statistical methodology when he asserts that among the countries having the lowest mortality rates is a country like South Africa. He does not indicate, however, that the adduced low death rate in South Africa refers only to the European population which makes up only 20 percent of the entire population of South Africa. It is well known that the mortality rate of the local population is many times higher than the mortality rate among European colonials.

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The departure from Marxist-Leninist bases of Soviet statistics finds its expression in the servility and subservience of certain of our statisticians before bourgeois statistics. An example of such an unworthy servility on the part of a Soviet scientific worker is the statement of P. P. Maslov that the inclusion in our Soviet statistics of the latest technical "achievements" of the English statistical school "... sets our statistics on a higher historical (!) plane" (Izvestiya Akademii Nauk, Economics and Law, Section, No 3, 1946, p 263). This utterance by Maslov bears witness to his failure to understand that statistical science is set on an immeasurable height by the works of Lenin and Stalin and by the practice of socialist construction in the USSR, and that Soviet statistics enjoy the highest superiority over bourgeois statistics.

Many scientific workers in the field of statistics do not pay attention to the development of current questions of economic statistics nor to the generalization of the richest experience accumulated by the practice of socialist construction in the USSR.

Thus, for example, completely inadequate attention is paid to the treatment of theoretical bases and principles of such an important question of Soviet statistics as the organization of government accounting. The Soviet Union is the only country in the world where statistical observation includes all organizations, enterprises, branches of economy, and fields of cultural advancement in a single program. As early as 1920, Comrade Stalin pointed out that "it is necessary for inspection workers to help their comrades in authority, both centrally and in the field, to set up more expedient forms of calculation of government property. They should help set up expedient forms of accounts which would restore the supply system, the peace and war machine, and the economic system" (Works, Vol 4, p 366). During the years of socialist construction, according to the peculiarities of each of its stages, the forms and methods of the management of economy changed and were perfected. On this basis, the forms of calculation and accounting changed too. In connection with this, the establishment of the most expedient forms of calculation and accounting and the struggle with excesses in accounting and with local antigovernment tendencies in this matter are of extraordinary importance. All these questions are passed over in our theoretical literature.

To this day, our scientific workers have not published a single work on the question of the organization of accounting.

In textbooks, on the theory of statistics, altogether inadequate attention is paid to the organization of government accounts, and questions of statistical supervision are elucidated very often without mention of the new concepts which the practice of socialist construction brought into this field, and without mention of the fact that the presence of government statistics in a socialist society radically changes the whole organization of statistical supervision.

The lag in the treatment of current questions on the theory of economic statistics is especially clearly indicated in the low theoretical level of a number of textbooks on branch statistics. This finds its expression in an unsatisfactory economic basis of statistical indicators, in the simplified and erroneous treatment of a number of questions.

The absence of a general course of economic statistics is completely intolerable. Molotov, in his speech at the All-Union Conference of Workers of the Higher Schools in 1938, specifically indicated the necessity of the compilation of a textbook on national economic accounting. This instruction from Molotov is still unfulfilled and is undoubtedly one of the results of the lag of theoretical statistics behind the tasks and practices of socialist construction.

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The most serious inadequacy in the field of theoretical work is the absence of genuine aggressive criticism of contemporary bourgeois theories and methods of statistics, and lack of a systematic exposure of the falsification of facts employed by bourgeois statistics. The methodological basis of bourgeois statistics is a reactionary ideological philosophy and a vulgar political economy. Contemporary bourgeois science both in the fields of philosophy and economics denies the possibility of the knowledge of objective laws and even denies their very existence. This extreme idealism and extreme spirit of reaction is the result of the striving of bourgeois statistics to move away from an explanation of the laws of development of contemporary society, to conceal and shade the contradictions of capitalism, and to create a falsified picture of capitalist economy. In conformity with this, contemporary bourgeois political economy, particularly its Anglo-American school, replaces the study of internal laws of economic development with the superficialities of empirical descriptions and economic analyses of formal mathematical synthesis.

The contemporary school of American statisticians also moves along the same path as: U. Mitchell, U. Persons, V. King, T. Kelly, and others. They invented, for example, the pseudoscientific concept of "trend" (perpetual motion) that is, imaginary lines of the interminable progressive movement of the capitalist structure. They try to explain all deviations from the imaginary line, crises, plots, and even revolutions as "casual disturbances."

The English professor Pearson is considered one of the most important authorities in contemporary bourgeois theoretical statistics. Lenin's Materialism and Empirical Criticism refuted Pearson's philosophy with annihilating criticism. For Professor Pearson, the real things are "sensual preceptions." He denies the existence of objective rules in nature and society, he denies the existence of objective causality. Pearson sees the aim of science not as the explanation of phenomena but as the description of them. The reflection of this reactionary subjective-idealistic philosophy in the field of statistics is the Pearsonian "theory" of curved distribution and its antithesis of the "false" and the "true" correlation. Soviet statistical science must reveal the theoretical worthlessness and stagnation of contemporary bourgeois statistics and expose its false methods. These false approaches are especially employed in the field of labor statistics, in the statistics of wages and unemployment, that is, where bourgeois statistics deal with facts about the workers' standard of living.

The falsification of wages in bourgeois statistics is accomplished, for example, by the method of substituting for the real wages of a worker a salary according to the tariff table, the latter always exceeding the real wage--in some years by 10 percent or more, or through the citing of facts dealing with the alteration of the hourly rate of wages. Facts on wages are gathered not from the whole national economy, but rather from the well-paid professions and well-paid categories of workers. In the wage fund of workers and employees are included the salaries and bonuses of directors of trusts. Falsification of the real wages is also achieved by the construction of vicious and false indexes of the cost of living, and indexes of prices. Thus, in the calculation of indexes of the cost of living during the war, no attention was paid to the prices on the black market, although it is well known that the workers were obliged to turn to it. Rents were estimated according to prewar data. Among the selection of commodities for the calculation of indexes, there were included goods whose prices rose the least. That is why the official index of the cost of living in bourgeois countries is always minimized.

Bourgeois statistics ignore completely the influence of unemployment on the working class's standard of living. The statistics of unemployment take into account only a small part of unemployment. A vicious methodology of defining the number of unemployed on the basis of percent of unemployed among a restricted number of professions artificially minimizes the real number of unemployed.

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Individuals who do not work a full workday, those who are not registered with employment agencies, those who do not take advantage of the right to relief, those who have gone to the farms, into housekeeping, those looking for work--none of these are taken into account.

Facts concerning national income are no less subject to falsification. National income is exaggerated by including in it services, and expenditures on the bourgeois government apparatus, on the army, on churches, etc. The distribution of national income by classes is misrepresented. Comrade Stalin in a speech at the 16th Congress of the party exposed the methods of bourgeois falsification as "having as its aim, partly the hiding of the incomes of capitalists and to minimize them, and partly the inflation and increasing of the incomes of the working class, by reckoning, as workers, officials who receive enormous salaries" (Questions of Leninism, 10th Edition, p 381).

There is not one branch of socio-economic statistics where bourgeois statistics have not falsified statistical data. Soviet economists must not only expose the depravity of bourgeois statistics before the whole world, but must also disclose the real situation by comparing falsified bourgeois statistics with their own correct, scientifically verified data.

Before Soviet economists and statisticians stands the task of treating questions concerning the theory of statistics. Above all, it is necessary to master the rich Leninist heritage and the instructions of Stalin on questions of statistics. As for the treatment of materials of the Leninist heritage in the field of statistics, very little has been done to date. In particular, there has not been written or published a single specialized work dedicated to this most important question. The attention of our scientific workers must be shifted to current questions of economic statistics.

Vital significance in all statistical work is attributed to questions of organization and methods of verification of fulfillment of national-economic plans and balances, of the plans of the allocation of material funds, of plans of development and inculcation of new techniques in the national economy, and the scientific analysis of statistical materials. There must be a treatment of questions dealing with the setting up of an account balance of national economy, with statistics of the social product, and of the gross and net production of the individual branches of the national economy. The study of the proportions among the separate branches of the national economy, directed at the exposure and prevention of partial disproportions which can arise in the course of the fulfillment of plans, also demands the treatment of a number of theoretical statistical questions, such as methods of setting up account balances, the comparison of structural indexes and the tempos of the development of the individual branches.

Scientific workers in statistics must work out problems dealing with the generalization of leading performances, with the study of mean-progressive norms, with the exposing of backward enterprises and the reason for their backwardness. This demands further development of the theory of groupings.

The application of statistical-economic analysis of mass statistical materials for the verification of plan fulfillment in conjunction with a dynamic observation of facts demands further theoretical treatment of a selection method in all branches of national economy and also a treatment of the methods of monographic studies of individual enterprises.

The study of questions concerned with the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan demands the treatment of questions concerning methods of accounting in the volume of capital construction, the volume of basic funds invested, the placing in action of the most important of the actuating objects, (puskovykh ob'yektov), and the evaluation of basic funds.

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A significant number of current theoretical questions arises from the treatment of the system of Soviet indexes, which show the physical volume of production, wholesale and retail prices, physical volume of capital construction, cost of production and construction, and expenses of handling and productivity labor. The significance of a correct calculation of indexes relative to strengthening the role of wholesale prices in industry and construction is a particularly growing one.

According to Gosplan data for the first quarter of 1948, purchasing power of the Soviet ruble has risen 41 percent. Real wages of workers and employees have gone up as a result of the lowering of prices and the rise of the ruble's buying power. In the first quarter of 1948, in comparison with the first quarter of 1947, monetary wages were up an average of 51 percent. Further treatment of questions connected with the study of the growth of the purchasing power of the ruble and the real wages of workers and employees in the USSR is an important task for Soviet statisticians.

The action of the law of value in the Soviet Union must be studied scientifically. To this are related, above all, such questions as the calculation of price indexes, and production cost and distribution expense.

Soviet government statistics must provide a single methodological guide for all statistical operations of ministries and departments. Correct account figures are essential. It should be remembered that the struggle for correct figures is the struggle with antigovernment and localist tendencies, with deception, with failures to make proper accounts, with additions and all other attempts to corrupt factual data concerning fulfillment of the plan. An actual fulfillment of the plan is its fulfillment not only for gross production but also its fulfillment of the program in the most important aspects of actual output, by selection, by cost price and other qualitative indexes. Statistics is a powerful weapon for verification of the fulfillment of government plans. In this connection, theoretical questions concerning methods of control works in the field of statistics and comparisons of statistical facts with indexes of the plans acquire special significance.

An indispensable condition in the approach to all theoretical works in the field of statistics is a merciless struggle against bourgeois statistics, the unmasking of its antiscientific and apologetic character, a fight against all attempts at surreptitious introduction of bourgeois ideology into the theory of statistics. The Soviet statistician must liquidate the last ounce of formalism in the theory of statistics, and root out the servility found among certain statisticians to foreign ideas and their admiration for bourgeois statistics.

Our theoretical workers must seriously take up the study of the history of Russian statistics. It is completely inadmissible that up to this time the achievement of Russian statistics has been concealed. Lenin, while severely criticizing the mistakes of rural statistics at the same time pointed out its achievements. "An intimate acquaintance of Europeans with our rural statistics would undoubtedly give a strong impetus to the progress of social statistics in general" (*Works*, Vol LV, p 266).

Scientific generalization of the rich material with which Soviet statistics deal demands a further arming of our cadres with an intensive knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory, and a continual raising of their theoretical levels. The writing of a textbook on economic statistics is a point of honor among Soviet statisticians -- a textbook which would, in full measure, reflect the numerous and many-sided instructions of Lenin and Stalin on questions of statistics and which would theoretically generalize the practical experience of Soviet statistics.

It is necessary to raise the ideological and political level of all the scientific work of Soviet statisticians and to work out the theoretical development of current statistical problems arising from the practice of socialist construction in the USSR.

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